

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB/AN:JBMAGNOR/CAB:ALARGAY:DAP

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EAIR, FR

SUBJECT:CIVAIR: DISSATISFACTION WITH ATITRA FARES

1. AIR FRANCE FILED TARIFF REVISIONS ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1975, FOR EFFECTIVENESS OCTOBER 10, 1975, ENCOMPASSING REDUCED FARES FOR FRENCH YOUTHS FROM PARIS TO NEW YORK UNDER THE AUSPICES OF L'ASSOCIATION TECHNIQUE INTERMINISTERIELLE DES TRANSPORTS (ATITRA). THE FARES, AT A ROUND-TRIP LEVEL OF 273.50 DOLLARS, WITH A 21 DAY MINIMUM STAY REQUIREMENT, ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL FRENCH CITIZENS OF THE AGES 16 THROUGH 27.

2. FARES AVAILABLE ONLY TO SELECTED SEGMENTS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC BASED ON THE AGE OF THE INDIVIDUAL HAVE IN THE PAST BEEN FOUND TO BE UNJUSTLY DISCRIMINATORY BY THE US AERONAUTICAL AUTHORITIES AND THEIR USE DENIED IN TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE UNITED STATES. ALTHOUGH THE CAB HAD EARLIER DISAPPROVED YOUTH FARES ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE BOARD HAS APPROVED YOUTH FARES (UP TO AGE 24) ADOPTED

BY IATA FOR USE THROUGH MARCH 31, 1976. THIS ACTION WAS
PREDICATED ON A SPECIFIC COMPETITIVE PROBLEM AFFECT-
ING US FLAG CARRIERS BUT NO SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES APPLY IN
THE CASE OF THE ATITRA FARES. US AVIATION AUTHORITIES

BELIEVE THE CARRIAGE OF FRENCH-ORIGINATING YOUTH
TRAFFIC CAN BE HANDLED ADEQUATELY UNDER THE IATA
YOUTH FARES AGREED TO BY BOTH THE US AND FRENCH FLAG
CARRIERS, WITHOUT RESORT TO THE UNREASONABLY LOW, DIS-
CRIMINATORY ATITRA FARES, WHICH REFLECT LEVELS 42 PERCENT
BELOW THE IATA YOUTH FARE BETWEEN NEW YORK AND PARIS,
AND 37 PERCENT BELOW THE APEX FARE AVAILABLE TO THE
GENERAL PUBLIC. THE SPECIAL FARES COVER SUCH A MAJOR
PART OF THE GENERAL POPULATION THAT THEY CANNOT BE
CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR ANY SPECIAL EXCEPTION.

3. ACCORDINGLY, DRAWING ON APPROPRIATE POINTS ABOVE
EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE OF US
DISSATISFACTION WITH THE ATITRA FARES UNDER THE TERMS OF
SECTION V OF THE ANNEX OF THE UNITED STATES - FRANCE AIR
TRANSPORT AGREEMENT. INGERSOLL

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